

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 377

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to recognize Kelly Holmes on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Madison County Fire Chief Kelly Holmes is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than fifty years as the motivational force behind the success of the Madison County Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holmes will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, after playing an integral role in the 1958 organization of the Madison County Fire Department, which is staffed entirely by volunteer firefighters, Kelly Holmes rose to the position of Fire Chief in 1963 and began serving the post on a full-time basis in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he has served the post with honor and integrity, cultivating a department known for its excellence in service and bravery in the face of incredible danger, all while operating on the smallest of budgets; his leadership abilities inspire the firefighters around him, and Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist stated that "he knows his equipment, he knows his personnel, [and] he knows what they're capable of doing," and that understanding has positively impacted the department during his tenure as chief; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holmes has guided the Madison County Fire Department with acumen and alacrity through five decades, ensuring its growth from its humble beginnings, during which time he and his fellow firefighters had only Army surplus equipment with which to

do their jobs, to its current standing as a department with sixteen stations, sixty-five pieces of firefighting equipment, and 162 firefighters; and

WHEREAS, he is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the Fire Chiefs Association, to which he dedicated his time and leadership through two terms as the organization's president; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Kelly Holmes was chosen by the Jackson Exchange Club as that organization's "Man of the Year" in 1975 and received the Humanitarian Service Award from the American Red Cross in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Chief Holmes exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he eagerly anticipates the opportunities retirement will afford him to spend time with his family and enjoy life in the country; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Kelly Holmes has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and firefighters across the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Kelly Holmes our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors and offer our debt of gratitude for a long and dedicated career devoted to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Madison County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.